



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

June 11, 2003

Dear :

I respectfully request your assistance in selecting members for a newly forming Western Washington Municipal Stormwater Advisory Group (Westside Stormwater Group), **by June 30, 2003.**

Background

Urban stormwater runoff presents very real challenges and choices for Washington. Stormwater runoff is polluting our state waters and reducing the quality of life for our citizens. New federal stormwater regulations call for addressing these problems, yet we are becoming increasingly aware of the financial pressures they will place on many of our local governments and businesses across Washington. The challenge we face is crafting an approach to urban stormwater that addresses new and existing federal stormwater requirements, protects our state's interest in clean water, recognizes the need for our businesses to remain competitive, and addresses the fiscal constraints faced by many of our local governments.

Ecology is forming the Westside Stormwater Group in acknowledgment of the Washington State Legislature's interest in municipal stormwater discharges as evidenced in the House and Senate versions of HB1689. I have directed my staff to use the common elements of both bills to form this group to advise and assist Ecology regarding permits for municipal separate storm sewer systems.

Tasks

The Westside Stormwater Group will work within a facilitated process to frame significant policy issues related to the development of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permits for municipal separate stormwater discharges in Western Washington, identify options to address

Group Composition

Membership is restricted to a total of 19 members, plus Ecology. The makeup of the committee is listed in Attachment 1.

Executive Committee

The group will also have an Executive Committee that will assist with selecting a facilitator, developing the scope of work for the facilitator, and overseeing the committee process. The proposed makeup of the Executive Committee is listed in Attachment 1

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June 11, 2003

Page 2

Workload Commitments

Given the restricted size of the committee, most members will be representing a broader constituent group or caucus. It will be necessary for members to communicate with their constituents, both to represent those interests fairly and to relay information back to others. Although a meeting schedule for the Westside Stormwater Group has not been set, we expect a workload of at least four days a month over the next seven months for this project.

Timetable

We anticipate that both the Westside Stormwater Group and the Executive Committee will meet at least once a month, from June through November 2003, with additional meetings in 2004 to discuss permit provisions. The Executive Committee will likely hold one meeting each month, in addition to the Westside Stormwater Group meetings.

Member Selection

Please submit the name of a committee member to Lauren Driscoll at Ecology no later than June 30, 2003. You may either send the name to Lauren at ldri461@ecy.wa.gov, or call her at (360) 407-6467.

Invited Representatives

We will keep legislators from each caucus informed of the Westside Stormwater Group's schedule and progress. We are also inviting other representatives from government agencies and the Governor's Office to participate in the discussions. These invitations will be sent to:

Governor's Executive Policy Office
Tribes
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources
U.S. EPA
NOAA Fisheries
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

It is our intention to work hard, give serious consideration to the diverse views on stormwater, and to produce a report by December 15, 2003. If you have any questions about this process or committee selection, please contact Lauren Driscoll at (360) 407-6467 or ldri461@ecy.wa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our water quality and willingness to assist in this process.

Sincerely,

Tom Fitzsimmons
Director

Attachments

Invitation Letter Attachment 1

Western Washington Municipal Stormwater Advisory Group (Westside Stormwater Group)

Interest Group Categories	Representative Organizations Contacted	# of Positions
Local Government	Association of Washington Cities Washington Association of County Officials	9
Business Interests	Association of Washington Business Associated General Contractors Building Industry Association of Washington Washington Association of Realtors	3
Environmental Interests	Washington Environmental Council People for Puget Sound Puget Soundkeeper Alliance	2
Shellfish	Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Northern Oyster Company, Inc.	1
Agriculture	The Cattlemen's Association Washington State Farm Bureau	1
Ports	Washington Public Ports Association	1
	Washington State Department of Transportation	1
	Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team	1
	Ecology	1

Executive Committee

1 member from each of the following groups:

Ecology
Business Interests
Environmental Interests
Cities
Counties
5 total

Invitation Letter Attachment 2

List of issues:

- (a) Types of discharges being regulated under these permits¹;
- (b) Areas being regulated by these permits under phases one and two of the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system permit program as they relate to municipal borders;
- (c) Issuance of these permits² on a watershed basis;
- (d) Integration of permits and permit requirements for phase one and phase two of the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system permit program;
- (e) Application of these permits to ground water discharges;
- (f) Level of effort required of municipalities to satisfy permit requirements regarding:
 - (i) Public education and outreach;
 - (ii) Public participation and public involvement;
 - (iii) Illicit discharge detection and elimination;
 - (iv) Construction site runoff control;
 - (v) Post construction runoff control;
 - (vi) Pollution prevention and good housekeeping;
 - (vii) Implementation of applicable total maximum daily loads; and
 - (viii) Program evaluation and reporting;
- (g) Protection for shellfish areas;
- (h) Costs and benefits associated with each permit element not required under federal law;
- (i) The use of land use planning and existing land use plans and rules as a best management practice for storm water management; and
- (j) Potential funding sources for implementation of permit requirements.

¹ The permits referred to are the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System municipal stormwater permits – Phase I reissued and the new Phase II permits.

² NPDES municipal stormwater permits, Phases I and II